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# Statistical Abstract of the United States 1955

*76th Annual Edition*

Prepared under the direction of

EDWIN D. GOLDFIELD

Chief, Statistical Reports Division

*Bureau of the Census  
Library*



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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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The cooperation of the many contributors to this volume is gratefully acknowledged. The list of tables by source (pp. XII-XV) and the source note below each table indicate the various government and private agencies which have collaborated in furnishing information for the *Statistical Abstract*.

JUNE 1955.

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U. S. Bureau of the Census, *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1955*. (Seventy-sixth edition.) Washington, D. C., 1955.

## P R E F A C E

The *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, published annually since 1878, is the standard summary of statistics on the industrial, social, political, and economic organization of the United States. This book is designed to fulfill two functions: First, to serve as a convenient volume for statistical reference; and second, to serve as a guide to other statistical publications and sources.

The *Statistical Abstract of the United States* includes a representative selection of data from most of the important statistical publications, both governmental and private. These source publications are noted at the foot of each table. The publications cited usually contain additional statistical detail and a more complete discussion of relevant definitions and concepts than can be presented here. Where contributing agencies are cited as sources, without mention of publications, more detailed information frequently is available from their unpublished tabulations and records.

Emphasis in the *Statistical Abstract* is given primarily to national data. Data for regions and individual States are presented to a lesser extent. Data for cities or other geographic units appear only in a small number of instances.

**1955 edition.**—This edition, the seventy-sixth annual issue, presents data for the most recent year or period available during the early part of 1955. The title year "1955" refers both to the year during which compilation of the book was made and the year of publication.

Each year, an attempt is made to introduce new subject material of interest, data that are less timely are eliminated, and format and text changes are made where necessary. This year the text notes for the first half of the volume were revised to make them more comprehensive and consistent. The format of the Bibliography of Sources was extensively revised to improve readability. A number of new charts were included. In addition, many new tables were introduced.

Among the new tables in this issue are tables on the following subjects:

Sex ratio of the population, by age and color	Per capita income in current and constant dollars
Family charges and costs for personal health services	Mortgage debt outstanding, by type of property and holder
Personnel and expenditures in State hospitals for psychiatric patients	Nonfarm real estate foreclosures
Urban and rural crime rates	Life insurance ownership and average premium, by spending unit characteristics
Juvenile delinquency	Life insurance and disposable personal income per family
Legal profession	Projections of electric energy requirements to 1975
Earliest and latest dates of occurrence of frost	Mileage of Federal-aid highway systems, by States
Duration of unemployment for unemployed persons	Losses paid on automobile insurance
Marital status of women in the labor force	Intercity freight traffic, by type of transportation
Selective Service registrants accepted, and disqualified by cause	Intercity passenger traffic, by type of transportation
Membership in Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts	Water use in manufacturing
Orphans, by type and age	

Public water supplies for community water systems	Sales of surplus agricultural commodities under Mutual Security Program
Motion picture theater admissions and receipts	Personal income in Hawaii
New funds available under Mutual Security Program, by type of aid and region	Balance of payments of Puerto Rico
	International foreign exchange holdings

There are, in addition, new tables on a number of other subjects.

Among tables shown in the last edition, 47 were omitted from this issue. Major omissions occurred in the Area and Population section and in the Labor Force, Employment, and Earnings section affecting 1950 Census of Population data; in the Vital Statistics, Health, and Nutrition section, affecting infant births and deaths; in the Forests and Forest Products section, affecting data on production of laths, shingles, and coeprage stock; and in the Foreign Commerce section, affecting data on aid programs shown for shipments and authorizations by commodity groups. Some of the information in the omitted tables was absorbed in other tables still present.

**Supplements to the Abstract.**—The *Statistical Abstract*, as an annual one-volume publication, is of necessity limited in amount of detail shown. Businessmen, teachers, librarians, public officials, professional workers, market researchers, and others often require data for individual cities, counties, metropolitan areas, and other small areas as well as for States. Economists, teachers, social scientists, historians, students, and others frequently need more historical information. To meet such requests for more detail, a series of supplements to the *Abstract* has been issued.

The *County and City Data Book, 1952*, a small-area supplement, issued in May 1953, brings together 128 items of information for each county, standard metropolitan area, and State; and 133 items for each of 484 cities with 25,000 inhabitants or more in 1950. Most of the statistics in this volume were obtained from the results of the 1950 Censuses of Agriculture, Population, and Housing. Other subjects covered include 1950 data for births, deaths, and marriages; bank deposits and E Bond sales; city government finances and employment; city school systems; farm-operator family level-of-living index; and other items of social and economic importance. Final figures for a number of items from the 1948 Census of Business and the 1947 Census of Manufactures are also shown. This volume is on sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., for \$4.25.

*Historical Statistics of the United States, 1789-1945*, a historical supplement, was published in July 1949. This volume presents, in compact form, approximately 3,000 statistical time series (mostly on an annual basis) which cover various periods from 1789 to 1945. These time series reflect economic, social, and political aspects of the development of the Nation since the Federal Government was formally established. In the preparation of this supplement the Bureau of the Census had the cooperation of a special committee of the Social Science Research Council set up to advise the Director of the Census on a source book of historical statistics and of the Committee on Research in Economic History under the auspices of the Social Science Research Council. This volume is on sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., for \$3.25.

*Continuation to 1952 of Historical Statistics of the United States, 1789-1945*, issued in May 1954, presents data for 1946 to 1952 for the current series shown in *Historical Statistics*, mentioned above. It also contains the latest revisions for many of the series in *Historical Statistics*. This publication is also on sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., for 55 cents.

**Responsibility.**—The contents of this volume are taken from a large number of sources, as indicated in the list of agencies furnishing material. (See pages XII–XV.) The Bureau of the Census cannot accept the responsibility for the accuracy or limitations of the data presented here, other than for those which it collects. However, the responsibility for selection of the material and for proper presentation rests with the Bureau, even though carried out with the cooperation of many technicians who have given generously of their time and knowledge in order to assist the Bureau's staff in making the presentation as meaningful and useful as possible.

The cooperation of users of this volume must also be acknowledged. Many persons have written offering suggestions for improving the presentation of the material. These letters have been most helpful and users are urged to continue to make their needs known. All suggestions will be carefully considered in planning future editions.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON DATA PRESENTED**

write to the agency indicated in the source note to the table which covers the desired subject.

**SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

should be sent to  
The Director  
Bureau of the Census  
Washington 25, D. C.

## STATISTICAL ABSTRACT SUPPLEMENTS

*County and City Data Book, 1952.* A compact presentation of 128 items of statistical data for each county and standard metropolitan area in the United States, and 133 items of statistical data for each of 484 cities having 25,000 inhabitants or more in 1950. Items included based largely on results of 1950 Censuses of Agriculture, Population, and Housing. Includes 51 maps, explanatory and definitive text, and source notes. 608 pages. Issued 1953. Second printing. Price \$4.25 (Buckram).

*Historical Statistics of the United States, 1789-1945.* A supplement to the *Statistical Abstract*, prepared with the cooperation of the Social Science Research Council. A compilation of about 3,000 statistical time series, largely annual, extending back through time to the earliest year for which figures are available. Includes definitions of terms and descriptive text. Specific source notes provide a basic guide to original published sources for further reference and additional data. Detailed alphabetical subject index. 363 pages. Issued 1949. Fourth printing. Price \$3.25 (Buckram).

*Continuation to 1952 of Historical Statistics of the United States, 1789-1945.* Carries forward and presents revisions of the statistical time series contained in *Historical Statistics of the United States, 1789-1945*. Designed especially for use in conjunction with the *Historical Statistics* volume. 79 pages. Issued 1954. Price 55 cents.

Purchase orders should be addressed to the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

# CONTENTS

Section	Page
<b>TABLES BY SOURCE</b> .....	XII
<i>Fig. I. Map of the United States, Showing Census Divisions and Regions</i> .....	XVI
<b>1. AREA AND POPULATION</b> .....	1
<p>Area—Population by geographic distribution—Population estimates—Urban and rural population—Sex—Age—Race—Nativity and percentage—Citizenship—Mobility status—Fertility—Marital status—Households—Institutional population—Religious bodies.</p> <p><i>Figs. II–VII. Population: Urban and Rural Trends; Households; Age and Sex; Median Age; Marital Status; Center of Population.</i></p>	
<b>2. VITAL STATISTICS, HEALTH, AND NUTRITION</b> .....	57
<p>Births—Completeness of birth registration—Reproduction rates—Life table values—Deaths—Marriage and divorce—Hospitals—Mental patients under institutional care—Morbidity—Physicians, dentists, and graduate nurses—Medical, dental, and nursing schools—Medical costs and voluntary health insurance—Nutrition—Federal food programs.</p> <p><i>Fig. VIII. Vital Statistics Rates.</i></p>	
<b>3. IMMIGRATION, EMIGRATION, AND NATURALIZATION</b> .....	89
<p>Immigration—Immigration quotas—Emigration—Movement and characteristics of aliens—Displaced persons and war brides—Arrivals and departures, aliens and citizens—Naturalization.</p> <p><i>Figs. IX–X. Immigrants Admitted; Aliens Naturalized, by Type of Legal Provision.</i></p>	
<b>4. EDUCATION</b> .....	105
<p>School enrollment—Years of school completed—Illiteracy—Elementary and secondary schools—Institutions of higher education—Earned degrees conferred—Land grant institutions—Special schools—Vocational schools—Federal aid.</p> <p><i>Figs. XI–XII. Average Expenditure Per Pupil; Percent of Population Enrolled in School, by Age.</i></p>	
<b>5. LAW ENFORCEMENT, FEDERAL COURTS, AND PRISONS</b> .....	137
<p>Crime rates—Arrests—Juvenile delinquency—Federal courts—Legal profession—Prisoners in State and Federal prisons—Federal prisoners released—Prisoners executed.</p> <p><i>Figs. XIII–XIV. Federal Prisoners Received from Courts; Repeaters and First Offenders Among Federal Prisoners.</i></p>	
<b>6. CLIMATE</b> .....	155
<p>Elevation of stations—Occurrence of frost—Temperature—Precipitation—Snowfall—Sunshine—Wind velocity—Relative humidity—Degree days.</p>	
<b>7. PUBLIC LANDS AND NATIONAL PARKS</b> .....	170
<p>Ownership of lands—Public and Indian land—Land grants—National Park System—Visitors to national parks—Lands under jurisdiction of Bureau of Indian Affairs.</p> <p><i>Fig. XV. Acquisition of Territory of Continental United States.</i></p>	

Section	Page
<b>8. LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND EARNINGS</b> .....	<b>181</b>
Labor force status—Employment status—Industry—Farm employment and wage rates—Occupation—Output per man-hour—Production workers, average hours and earnings—Union wage rates—Industrial injuries—Labor turnover—Labor-union membership—Work stoppages.	
<i>Fig. XVI. Trends in the Labor Force.</i>	
<b>9. MILITARY SERVICES AND VETERANS AFFAIRS</b> .....	<b>222</b>
Army—Air Force—Navy—Marine Corps—Expenditures for national security—War casualties—Ships—Airplanes—Selective service—Veterans, expenditures for veterans, other veterans' benefits.	
<i>Fig. XVII. Federal Expenditures for Major National Security Functions and Veterans' Services and Benefits.</i>	
<b>10. SOCIAL INSURANCE AND WELFARE SERVICES</b> .....	<b>239</b>
Public expenditures for social security and related purposes—Old-age and survivors insurance—Unemployment insurance—Placements by public employment offices—Railroad retirement—Railroad unemployment and sickness benefits—Federal retirement systems—Workmen's compensation payments—Public assistance—Maternal and child health and welfare services—Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts—Vocational rehabilitation—Red Cross—Community Chest.	
<i>Fig. XVIII. Social Security Operations.</i>	
<b>11. INCOME, EXPENDITURES, AND WEALTH</b> .....	<b>280</b>
The Nation's income, expenditure, and savings—Gross national product or expenditure—National income—Income payments to individuals—Distribution of families and individuals by income levels—Family income, expenditures, and savings—National wealth.	
<i>Figs. XIX-XXII. Per Capita Income Payments to Individuals, by States; Median Income of Men and Women; Median Income of Whites and Nonwhites; Gross National Product.</i>	
<b>12. PRICES</b> .....	<b>310</b>
Wholesale price indexes—Purchasing power of the dollar—Indexes of consumers' prices—Retail prices—Electric bills and gas bills of residential consumers—Unit values of commodities exported and imported.	
<i>Figs. XXIII-XXIV. Wholesale Price and Consumer Price Indexes.</i>	
<b>13. ELECTIONS</b> .....	<b>328</b>
Electoral and popular vote for President—Apportionment of congressional representation—Votes for U. S. Senators and Representatives and Governors—Registered voters—Citizens of voting age—Congressional activity and party affiliations—Lobbies.	
<i>Figs. XXV-XXVI. Participation in National Elections; Composition of Congress by Party.</i>	
<b>14. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FINANCES AND EMPLOYMENT</b> ....	<b>343</b>
Receipts and expenditures—Appropriations—Internal revenue collections—Individual and corporation income tax returns—Public and private debt—Government securities—Employees and payrolls.	
<i>Figs. XXVII-XXX. Federal Government Receipts and Expenditures; Public and Private Debt; Ownership of Gross Debt.</i>	

Section	Page
<b>15. STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCES AND EMPLOYMENT</b> -----	393
Governmental units—Aid from Federal Government—Government revenue, expenditure, and debt—Public employment and payrolls—Retirement systems—State government finances—City government. <i>Figs. XXXI-XXXIV. Revenue, by Source; Expenditures; Employees; Payrolls.</i>	
<b>16. BANKING AND FINANCE</b> -----	423
Currency and gold—Bank clearings—Banks; principal assets, liabilities, and other information for all banks, Federal Reserve banks, National banks, mutual savings banks—Savings—Liquid assets—Bank suspensions—Savings and loan associations—Government corporations and credit agencies—Farm credit—Consumer credit—Credit unions—Money rates—Margin requirements—Commodity and stock exchanges—Securities markets—Share ownership—Insurance. <i>Figs. XXXV-XXXVII. Bank Deposits and Currency Outside Banks; Bank Assets; Stock Prices.</i>	
<b>17. BUSINESS ENTERPRISE</b> -----	485
Business population and turnover—Corporate assets and liabilities—Corporation income, profits, dividends, and taxes—Income of unincorporated enterprise—Sources and uses of corporate funds—New plant and equipment expenditures—Gross private domestic investment—Research and development expenditures—Business sales, inventories, and orders—Industrial and commercial failures—Patents. <i>Fig. XXXVIII. New Plant and Equipment Expenditures.</i>	
<b>18. COMMUNICATIONS</b> -----	507
Telephone systems—Telegraph systems—Radio and television networks and broadcast stations—Postal service—Newspapers, periodicals and books—Registration of copyrights.	
<b>19. POWER</b> -----	526
Supply of energy—Electric energy; requirements, capacity of generating plants, and production—Financial and operating statistics of electric utility companies—Rural electrification—Gas utility industry—Natural gas reserves—Water power. <i>Fig. XXXIX-XL. Capacity of Electric Generating Plants; Supply of Energy.</i>	
<b>20. ROADS AND MOTOR VEHICLES</b> -----	540
Rural roads—Municipal mileage—State highway systems—Federal highway projects—Public roads finances—Motor vehicle sales—Motor fuel consumption—State motor vehicle registrations and revenues—Automobile ownership and financing—Automobile insurance—Motor vehicle travel and speed—Motor vehicle accident fatalities. <i>Fig. XLI. Speed of Motor Vehicles.</i>	
<b>21. TRANSPORTATION, AIR AND LAND</b> -----	556
Intercity traffic—Steam railways: Mileage; equipment; capitalization, investment, income, dividends, revenue, expenses; receiverships; freight and passenger service; employees; accidents—Express companies—Motorbus lines—Trolley-bus and street-car lines—Motor carriers of property and passengers—Civil aeronautics—Airports. <i>Figs. XLII-XLIV. Intercity Freight Traffic; Intercity Passenger Traffic; Revenue Freight Originated.</i>	

Section	Page
<b>22. WATERWAYS, WATER TRAFFIC, AND SHIPPING</b> .....	585
Water-borne commerce, foreign and domestic—Receipts and payments for international transportation—Ocean ports—Great Lakes ports—Rivers, canals, and connecting channels—Panama Canal traffic—Net tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in foreign trade—Merchant marine—Shipbuilding.	
<i>Fig. XLV. Percent of Cargo Tonnage Carried on American Flag Vessels in the U. S. Export and Import Trade.</i>	
<b>23. IRRIGATION, DRAINAGE, AND SOIL CONSERVATION</b> .....	609
Irrigation enterprises—Drainage on farms—Irrigation of agricultural lands—Drainage enterprises—Federal reclamation projects—Soil conservation.	
<b>24. AGRICULTURE—GENERAL STATISTICS</b> .....	623
Balance sheet of agriculture—National farm product—Number and acreage of farms—Land utilization—Value of farm property—Color and tenure of farm operators—Farm mortgage status and indebtedness—Indexes of farm prices—Farm income and expenditures—Farm-to-retail price spread—Farm labor—Farm facilities, electricity, etc.—Fertilizer consumption—Farmers' marketing and purchasing associations—Commodity Credit Corporation loans, inventories, and acquisitions.	
<i>Figs. XLVI–XLVIII. Farm Income; Prices Received and Paid by Farmers; Farm Assets.</i>	
<b>25. AGRICULTURE—PRODUCTION AND RELATED SUBJECTS</b> .....	657
Indexes of farm marketings and home consumption, and output—Farm labor, land, and livestock productivity—Agricultural products exported and imported—Acreage, production, and value of crops—Average prices of crops and livestock—Animal and vegetable fats and oils—Domestic animals and poultry on farms—Animal products—Stockyard receipts and shipments—Cold storage holdings—Wool.	
<b>26. FORESTS AND FOREST PRODUCTS</b> .....	705
Commercial forest land—Stand and growth of saw timber—Annual drain—National forests—Forest tree distribution program—Forest fires—Lumber and lumber products.	
<i>Fig. XLIX. Lumber Production.</i>	
<b>27. FISHERIES</b> .....	723
Quantity and value of catch—Canned and frozen fishery products—Exports and imports of fishery products—Fish propagation.	
<b>28. MINING AND MINERAL PRODUCTS</b> .....	732
Mineral production—Prices—Consumption—Indexes of physical volume—Imports and exports—Employees—Injuries—Fuels—Other nonmetals—Metals.	
<i>Fig. L. Value of Mineral Production.</i>	
<b>29. CONSTRUCTION AND HOUSING</b> .....	764
Expenditures for private and public construction—Construction and building costs—Construction contracts—Wholesale price indexes of building materials—Public housing—Characteristics and occupants of dwelling units—Facilities and equipment—Rents and values—Nonfarm properties—Occupied farm dwelling units.	
<i>Figs. LI–LII. New Construction Expenditures in Current Dollars; New Construction in 1947–49 Prices.</i>	

Section	Page
<b>30. MANUFACTURES</b> .....	795
Manufacturing establishments—Wage earners and production— Indexes of industrial production—Concentration of large companies— Fuels and electric energy consumed—Water use and supply—Ex- penditures for plant and equipment—Inventories—Production and re- lated information of selected products and groups of products—Sales and exports of home appliances—Motion-picture industry. <i>Fig. LIII. Industrial Production Indexes.</i>	
<b>31. DISTRIBUTION AND SERVICES (INCLUDING ADVERTISING)</b> ..	849
Retail trade—Chain stores and mail-order houses—Department stores—Consumers' cooperatives—Wholesale trade—Service establish- ments—Places of amusement—Hotels—Advertising. <i>Fig. LIV. Department Store Sales and Stocks.</i>	
<b>32. FOREIGN COMMERCE (INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL AC- COUNTS AND AID)</b> .....	883
International accounts and investments—Foreign assistance—Foreign trade: Raw materials; merchandise, gold and silver; trade balances; trade by economic classes and commodity groups; trade by country of destination and origin—Duties collected. <i>Fig. LV. Foreign Trade by Economic Classes.</i>	
<b>33. TERRITORIES, POSSESSIONS, AND OTHER AREAS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES</b> .....	929
Area—Number and characteristics of inhabitants—Births and deaths—Housing—Education—Agriculture—Mineral production— Manufactures—Income and employment of Hawaii—Balance of payments of Puerto Rico—Imports and exports—Shipments to the United States.	
<b>34. COMPARATIVE INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS</b> .....	947
Population and area—Vital statistics—Food supply—Economic in- dexes—Industrial origin of net domestic product—Agriculture— Energy—Manufacturing—Foreign trade—Mineral products—Gold and foreign exchange holdings—Foreign exchange rates—Transpor- tation—Communications—Education and health—Quotas in the International Monetary Fund, and subscriptions in the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development—Membership contribu- tions to United Nations.	
<b>APPENDIX I</b> .....	972
Historical Appendix: Index to tables in which <i>Historical Statistics</i> series appear.	
<b>APPENDIX II</b> .....	974
Weights and measures.	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SOURCES OF STATISTICAL DATA</b> .....	975
<b>INDEX</b> .....	1009

## TABLES BY SOURCE

Table numbers followed by "co-op." indicate that the statistics were compiled in cooperation with another agency; those followed by "part" indicate that statistics from another source appear in the same table.

### Government Agencies

<p>Administrative Office of the U. S. Courts: 171-177</p> <p>Agriculture:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Agricultural Marketing Service: 9, 96, 98-100, 234-236, 765 (part), 780-786, 789, 802, 813, 815 (part), 816-827, 828 (part), 831-843, 844 (part), 848 (part), 850 (part), 851- 855, 858-861, 862-863 (part), 890</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Agricultural Research Service: 97, 203, 206, 522, 523, 764, 765 (part), 770, 779, 792, 803-805</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Bureau of Agricultural Economics: 767, 777-778 (co-op.)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Commodity Exchange Authority: 548</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Commodity Stabilization Service: 796</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Farmer Cooperative Service: 793-795</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Farmers Home Administration: 528</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Foreign Agricultural Service: 806-808</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Forest Service: 865-870, 872-879, 887 (co-op.)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Rural Electrification Administration: 608, 643</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Soil Conservation Service: 761-763</p> <p>American National Red Cross: 331</p> <p>Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System: 353-355, 367, 435, 484, 485, 488, 490, 496-502, 508, 515, 518, 535, 538-544, 550 (part), 554, 567, 587, 588, 668, 909, 965, 992, 995, 1072, 1073, 1113</p> <p>Civil Aeronautics Board: 707-709 (co-op.), 713</p>	<p>Civil Service Commission: 313, 314, 441, 443-452</p> <p>Commerce: Bureau of the Census: 298 (co-op.), 907</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Agriculture Division: 751-756, 768, 769, 771-776, 777- 778 (co-op.), 787, 788, 790, 797- 801, 811, 812, 844 (part), 848 (part), 849, 850 (part), 856, 857, 1139-1141</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Business Division: 595 (co-op.), 1060 (part), 1062, 1063, 1066-1071, 1074, 1077-1088</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Foreign Trade Division: 388, 389, 720-723, 737-740, 809, 810, 815 (part), 846, 863 (part), 910, 947, 1037 (part), 1041 (part), 1043, 1044, 1053, 1107-1112, 1114, 1115, 1117-1120, 1122-1128, 1130, 1144, 1149-1152</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Governments Division: 393, 455, 457-473, 475-483</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Industry Division: 628, 711-712 (co-op.), 714 (co-op.), 814, 828 (part), 829, 830, 847, 864, 880-881 (co-op.), 884-886, 888, 990, 991, 993, 994, 996, 997, 1000-1006, 1014-1023, 1028, 1030- 1034, 1040, 1046-1052, 1055-1059, 1143, 1148</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Population and Housing Division: 1-8, 10-53, 65, 121-133, 169 (part), 218-225, 231, 233, 237-244, 263, 293, 349, 356-358, 360-366, 391, 399, 400, 972-989, 1132- 1135, 1137</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Bureau of Foreign Commerce: 1116, 1121</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Bureau of Public Roads: 251, 650-662, 664 (part), 665-667, 670</p>
---	---

## Commerce—Continued

Business and Defense Services Administration:  
845, 880-881 (co-op.), 883, 955, 998, 999, 1011, 1026

Civil Aeronautics Administration:  
707-709 (co-op.), 710, 711-712 (co-op.), 714 (co-op.), 715

Maritime Administration:  
718, 719, 741

Office of Business Economics:  
335-341, 342 (co-op.), 343-346, 352, 359, 373, 434, 550 (part), 551 (part), 553, 556, 577-579, 584-586, 589, 591 (co-op.), 592 (part), 595 (co-op.), 596, 717, 766, 889, 1060, 1061, 1064, 1065, 1075, 1092, 1096-1102, 1145

Patent Office:  
602-604

Weather Bureau:  
189-202

Congress:  
Clerk of House:  
390, 392, 394-397, 403 (part), 404 (part)

Joint Committee on Printing:  
401, 402

Library of Congress:  
403 (part), 631

Senate Library:  
404 (part)

Defense:  
262, 264-266, 593, 594 (co-op.)

Air Force:  
269

Army:  
271-273, 716, 724-729, 734, 735

Navy:  
267, 268

Executive Office of the President:  
315, 316, 454

Bureau of the Budget:  
260, 261, 408-413, 456, 962

Council of Economic Advisers:  
248, 334, 347, 592 (part)

Farm Credit Administration:  
524-527

Federal Communications Commission:  
607, 609-611, 613-618

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation:  
509-513

Federal Power Commission:  
384, 385, 633-637, 639-641, 649

Foreign Operations Administration:  
1103-1106

Health, Education, and Welfare:  
Office of Education:  
134-163, 1138

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation:  
329, 330

Public Health Service:  
56-64, 66, 68-83, 88-95, 671, 672, 1136

Social Security Administration:  
169 (part), 285-292, 294-297, 298 (co-op.), 299-302, 317-324, 326-328, 537

Housing and Home Finance Agency:  
Federal National Mortgage Association:  
514

Home Loan Bank Board:  
516, 517, 519-521, 529, 530, 532, 533

Public Housing Administration:  
969-971

Interior:  
204 (part)

Alaska Railroad:  
698

Bureau of Indian Affairs:  
217

Bureau of Land Management:  
204 (part), 205, 207-214

Bureau of Mines:  
632, 903, 904 (part), 905, 906, 908, 911-915, 917-921, 923-941, 943, 945, 946, 948-954, 1029, 1142

Bureau of Reclamation:  
757-760

Fish and Wildlife Service:  
862 (part), 891-902

National Park Service:  
215, 216

Interstate Commerce Commission:  
673-691, 693-697, 699, 703-706, 922

Justice:  
Bureau of Prisons:  
180-188

Federal Bureau of Investigation:  
164-168, 169 (part), 170

Immigration and Naturalization Service:  
101-120

Labor:  
Bureau of Employees' Compensation:  
453

Bureau of Employment Security:  
303-309

## Labor—Continued

Bureau of Labor Statistics:  
 226-230, 232, 245-247, 249, 250,  
 252-259, 342 (co-op.), 350, 351, 370-  
 372, 376, 377, 379-383, 386, 387, 442,  
 474, 594 (co-op.), 714 (co-op.), 743,  
 904 (part), 916, 957-961, 968, 1045,  
 1076

National Forest Reservation Commission:  
 871

New York State, Department of Public  
 Works:  
 736

Panama Canal Company:  
 730-733

Post Office Department:  
 536, 619-627

Puerto Rico Planning Board:  
 1146, 1147

Railroad Retirement Board:  
 310-312

Securities and Exchange Commission:  
 534, 546, 549, 550 (part), 555, 558, 581,  
 591 (co-op.)

Selective Service System:  
 270, 274

State (Bureau of United Nations Affairs):  
 1166

Tariff Commission:  
 1027

Treasury:  
 406, 407, 417, 433, 436-440, 486, 487

Bureau of Customs:  
 744-748, 1129, 1131

Bureau of the Mint:  
 491, 492, 942, 944

Comptroller of the Currency:  
 493-495, 503-507

Internal Revenue Service:  
 414-416, 418-432, 580, 582, 583, 590,  
 1008-1010, 1012, 1013, 1095

Veterans Administration:  
 275-284

## Nongovernment Agencies

American Bar Association:  
 178, 179

American Bureau of Shipping:  
 742

American Gas Association:  
 644-648

American Iron and Steel Institute:  
 1035, 1036, 1037 (part), 1038, 1039,  
 1041 (part), 1042

American Medical Association:  
 86, 87

American Telephone and Telegraph Co.:  
 605, 606

American Transit Association:  
 700

American Wood Preservers' Association:  
 887 (co-op.)

Association of American Railroads:  
 692

Automobile Manufacturers Association:  
 663, 664 (part)

R. R. Bowker Co.:  
 630

Boy Scouts of America:  
 325 (part)

Brookings Institution:  
 559-563

Bureau of Advertising of American News-  
 paper Publishers Association:  
 1091

Bus Transportation:  
 701, 702

Commercial and Financial Chronicle:  
 489 (part), 547, 557

Community Chests and Councils of  
 America, Inc.  
 332, 333

Congressional Quarterly News Features:  
 405

Council of State Governments:  
 398

F. W. Dodge Corporation:  
 963, 964

Dun & Bradstreet, Inc.:  
 597-601

Edison Electric Institute:  
 638, 642

Editor and Publisher:  
 629

Electrical Merchandising:  
 1054 (part)

Engineering and Mining Journal:  
 904 (part)

Engineering News Record:  
 956, 966, 967

Federal Reserve Bank of New York:  
 375

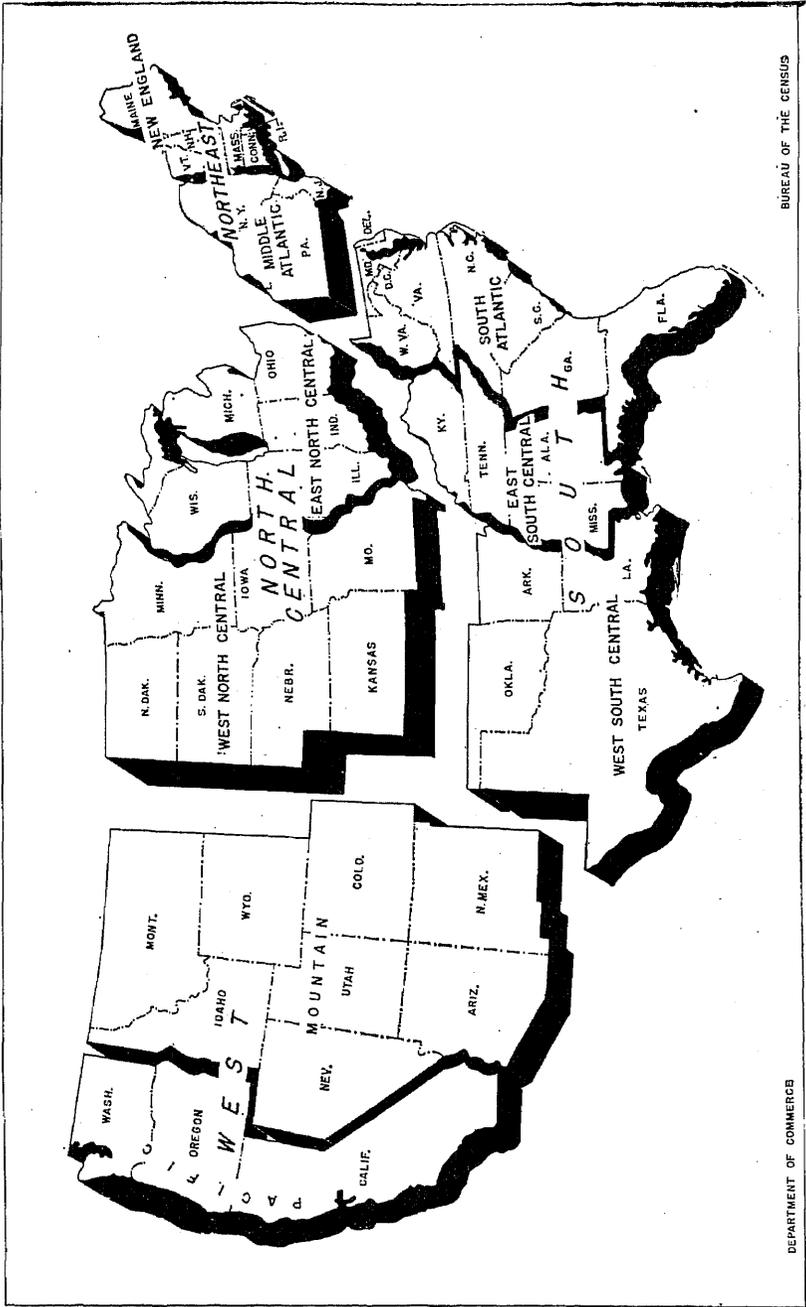
Gas Appliance Manufacturers Associ-  
 ation:  
 1054 (part)

Girl Scouts of the U. S. A.: 325 (part)	National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America: 54, 55
Goldsmith, R. W.: 368, 369	National Fertilizer Association: 791
Health Information Foundation: 84, 85	National Industrial Conference Board: 378
Institute of Life Insurance: 566, 569	National Lumber Manufacturers Association: 882
The Iron Age: 904 (part)	New York Stock Exchange: 545
Lloyd's Register of Shipping: 749, 750	Printers' Ink Publications: 1089, 1090 (part)
Los Angeles Clearing House: 489 (part)	Publishers' Information Bureau, Inc.: 1093, 1094
Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.: 67	Spectator: 564, 565, 568, 570-572, 575, 576, 669
Moody's Investors' Service: 552	Tanners' Council of America: 1025
National Association of Hosiery Manufacturers: 1024	Tide Magazine: 1090 (part)
National Board of Fire Underwriters: 573, 574	United States Savings and Loan League: 531
National Bureau of Economic Research: 348, 374, 551 (part)	Western Union Telegraph Co.: 612
National Cannery Association: 1007	

## International

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development: 1165	United Nations (Statistical Office): 1153-1164
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FIG. I.—MAP OF THE UNITED STATES, SHOWING CENSUS REGIONS AND DIVISIONS



BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Source: Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.